

HAROLD ROGERS
5TH DISTRICT, KENTUCKY

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INDEPENDENT AGENCIES

SELECT COMMITTEE ON
HOMELAND SECURITY



Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-1705
December 1, 2004

PLEASE RESPOND TO:

WASHINGTON OFFICE:

☐ 2406 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515-1705
(202) 225-4601

DISTRICT OFFICES:

☐ 551 CLIFTY STREET
SOMERSET, KY 42501
(606) 879-8346 OR
1-800-632-8588

☐ 100 RESOURCE DRIVE
SUITE A
PRESTONSBURG, KY 41653
(606) 886-0844

☐ 601 MAIN STREET
HAZARD, KY 41701
(606) 439-0794

Honorable Steven B. Schwalb, Chairman
Committee for Purchase From People Who Are Blind or Severely Disabled
1421 Jefferson Davis Highway
Jefferson Plaza 2, Suite 10800
Arlington, VA 22202-3259

Dear Mr. Schwalb:


On Nov. 12, 2004, the Committee for Purchase From People Who Are Blind or Severely Disabled issued a proposed rule that would impose Sarbanes-Oxley type governance standards on community rehabilitation programs (CRPs) that operate under the Javits-Wagner-O'Day program (JWOD). I believe that these standards could have a deleterious effect on JWOD organizations nationwide, including Southeastern Kentucky Rehabilitation Industries (SEKRI), a CRP in my district.

CRPs provide qualified personnel, facilities and related services to persons with disabilities, enabling them to obtain and maintain competitive employment. Consequently, CRPs provide quality products and services to the federal government, which saves time and resources on contracts and paperwork.

Requiring these organizations to fulfill redundant and restrictive regulations as outlined in the proposed rule could negatively impact the CRPs and those who benefit from their goods and services. For this reason, I would like to express my concern about the proposed rules, and strongly urge the Committee to reconsider before implementing these changes. I respectfully request that the Committee provide for an additional 180 days for comment and reflection before seeking to issue a final rule.

I sincerely appreciate your attention to this matter. Should you need additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me or Sarah Paff of my staff at (202) 225-4601.

Sincerely,


HAROLD ROGERS
Member of Congress